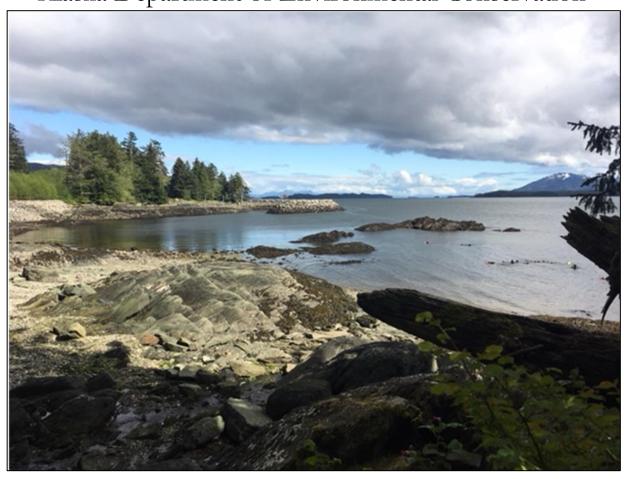
Ketchikan Beach Monitoring 2017-2018 Field Report

February 12, 2019



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation



Ketchikan Beach Monitoring 2017-2018 Field Report Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation February 12, 2019

Acknowledgements

This 2018 Field Report was prepared by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States EPA under assistance agreement number (BEACH-CU-00J71801) to the Department of Environmental Conservation through the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) program. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial product mentioned in this document.

Work was completed in cooperation with EPA, Ketchikan Indian Community, several DEC programs (Water Quality Standards, Assessment and Restoration (WQSAR), Compliance, Cruise Ship, and Wastewater Discharge Authorization), the City of Ketchikan, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Report cover photo was taken by Ketchikan Indian Community at Surprise Beach.

Ketchikan Beach Monitoring 2017-2018 Field Report Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation February 12, 2019

Project Summary

The Alaska BEACH program was initiated along the Ketchikan coastline to monitor fecal waste contamination during the 2017 recreation season, and continued during the 2018 recreation season. Marine water samples were collected weekly at nine monitoring locations from July through September 2017, and at 13 monitoring locations from May through September 2018 to evaluate potential health risks indicated by fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria, and to notify the public when levels exceeded state standards. To address additional community and tribal concerns in southern Ketchikan, the 2018 monitoring program included two alternating locations at Rotary Beach (Rotary Pool and Rotary Beach) and Mountain Point (Mountain Point Surprise Beach and Mountain Point Cultural Foods), and a new location at Herring Cove. Figure 1 shows the 13 monitoring locations. Table 1 provides specific site locations and descriptions, and Table 2 provides rationale for selecting the specific site locations.

The 2017/2018 analytical tests for enterococci revealed that 11 of the 13 monitoring sites failed to meet the Alaska water quality standard (WQS) statistical threshold value (STV) criterion for recreation use, and 11 of the 13 sites failed to meet the Alaska WQS 30-day geometric mean criterion for recreation use.

The 2017/2018 analytical tests for fecal coliform bacteria revealed that 11 of the 13 of the monitoring sites failed to meet the Alaska WQS single sample criteria for aquaculture, seafood processing, and harvesting for consumption uses, while 10 of the 13 sites failed to meet the Alaska WQS geometric mean criterion for harvesting for consumption use.

In addition to bacteria testing, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) conducted a source investigation of the pollution using microbial source testing for bacteria genetic identification. The human host marker and the gull host marker were detected at all 11 monitoring locations¹. Nine of the 11 monitoring locations also had dog host markers detected. Tables 3 through 6 provide analytical results in summary tables and individual sample tables for the 2017 and 2018 recreation seasons.

Numerous potential bacteria sources are present along the Ketchikan coast, including: private and/or public sewer treatment system outfall(s), public treatment system emergency bypasses, sewer line breaks, individual septic tanks, wildlife, pet feces, boats in harbor and launch areas, and private watercraft, ferries, and cruise ships. The data collected to date are not sufficient to determine which bacteria sources are negatively affecting the marine water.

This document does not evaluate whether the coastal waters are impaired under Clean Water Act section 303(d), although the data summarized in this report may be used in a future impairment determination when preparing the 2020 Integrated Report. Prior to making a decision on impairment DEC will issue a public notice and comment period for the community, agencies, and local and tribal governments, and other interested stakeholders.

Next Steps

DEC Beach program has been working with other DEC programs, the Ketchikan Borough, City of Ketchikan and other stakeholders to collect concurrent samples from various potential pollutant sources in the area. A comprehensive, more detailed report is in development, and planned for release in early 2019.

¹ Only 11 of 13 monitoring sites were tested for genetic markers. The Pool and Cultural Food sites were the alternating monitoring locations at Rotary Park and Mountain Point, respectively, and were analyzed for microbial source testing.

Ketchikan Beach Monitoring 2017-2018 Field Report Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation February 12, 2019

The comprehensive report will be posted on the Beach website http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/beach-program/ and Water Quality Reports website at http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/reports.

Further bacteria and microbial source testing is planned for the 2019 Ketchikan BEACH Monitoring Program which will help determine local bacteria pollution sources, support the development of solutions, and the implementation of bacteria source reduction in these areas.

In addition, DEC's Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) Grants Program plans to fund the development of a Watershed Management Plan which is designed to address the current pollution sources in Ketchikan and protect high quality waters. The plan evaluates storm water management options for reducing the pollutants (especially bacteria) entering Ketchikan freshwater watersheds and coastal marine waters from known diverse point and nonpoint bacteria discharges and sources. The plan will follow the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 9-element watershed planning process.

About Alaska's Beach Program

In response to increased occurrences of water-borne illnesses U.S. Congress passed the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act in 2002. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers grant funds to states, tribes and territories under the Act to establish monitoring and public notification programs. The BEACH program has established national marine water quality monitoring and reporting standards for fecal waste contamination and notifies the public when levels exceed state standards.

Congress passed the BEACH Act because pathogens in recreational waters can be naturally occurring, or they can be introduced through contamination events with the feces of humans and other warm-blooded animals. Two groups of bacteria, fecal coliform and enterococci, are measured as indicators of fecal waste contamination in marine waters. Commonly documented health issues from swimming in contaminated recreational waters include gastrointestinal illness, respiratory illnesses, skin rashes, and ear, eye, and wound infections. People who get an illness from swimming in contaminated water do not always associate their illness with swimming because the onset of the illness is delayed. For example, viral gastrointestinal illness is often mild, short-lived, and self-limiting, and symptoms usually take up to 24 hours to appear. Outbreaks of disease are usually documented when many people seek medical assistance because of a similar illness or the severity of the illness. However, people with mild illness often do not seek medical assistance. Therefore, disease outbreaks are often inconsistently recognized and the outbreak information in the literature is likely underestimated².

In Alaska, the Alaska DEC's Division of Water uses EPA grant funds for the Alaska BEACH program. Alaska's BEACH program provides funds to municipalities, watershed organizations, and tribal groups to conduct water quality monitoring on high-priority public beaches. BEACH programs have been set up in 15 Alaskan communities including Ketchikan. The Ketchikan BEACH program was developed in collaboration with the Ketchikan Indian Association (KIC), City of Ketchikan, and Ketchikan Gateway Borough. In 2017 and 2018, KIC performed the monitoring activities at the nine and 11 beaches in Ketchikan, respectively.

² EPA National Beach Guidance and Required Performance Criteria for Grants, 2014 Edition (EPA-823-B-14-001).

Figure 1 – 2018 Ketchikan BEACH Monitoring Program; 13 beach monitoring locations depicted as blue circles.



Table 1. Monitoring Locations and Site Descriptions

Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Site description
Knudson Cove	55° 28' 19.47" N 55.47208	-131° 47' 46.76" W - 131.79632	Beach and small boat harbor in Knudson Cove in southern end of Clover Pass, approx. 10 miles north of downtown.
Beacon Hill	55° 28' 20.21" N 55.47228	-131° 49' 22.98" W - 131.82305	South of Clover Passage, approx. 9.4 miles north of downtown.
South Point Higgins Beach	55° 26' 55.12" N 55.44864	-131° 49' 52.90" W - 131.83136	South of South Point Higgins Beach, approx. 8.3 miles north of downtown.
Beach at Shull Road	55° 26' 7.57" N 55.43544	-131° 47' 54.62" W - 131.79851	South of Whipple Creek mouth, approx. 6.7 miles north of downtown.
Beach at Sunset Drive	55° 24' 45.40'' N 55.41261	-131° 45' 54.19" W - 131.76505	On Sunset Peninsula approx. 4.7 miles north of downtown. South of Mud Bay.
South Refuge Cove State Recreation Site	55° 24' 26.62" N 55.40739	-131° 45' 19.77" W - 131.75549	South of state recreation site approx. 4 north miles of downtown.
Thomas Basin	55° 20' 28.49" N 55.34125	-131° 38' 30.45" W - 131.64179	Small boat harbor at mouth of Ketchikan Creek, approx. 2.5 miles south of downtown.
Seaport Beach	55° 18' 52.63" N 55.31462	-131° 35' 35.68" W - 131.5932	Local shellfish gathering beach approx. 5 miles south of downtown. Commercial area in Saxman.
Rotary Park Pool (aka Bugges Beach)	55° 18' 31.50" N	-131° 34' 39.34" W	Highly used recreation beach approx. 6 miles south of downtown. Concrete enclosure at outlet, marine water flows over enclosure.
Rotary Park Beach (aka Bugges Beach)	55° 18' 35.34" N 55.30982	-131° 34' 49.27" W - 131.58028	Highly used recreation beach approx. 6 miles south of downtown. Open coastal beach.
Mountain Point Surprise Beach	55° 17' 36.72" N 55.29353	-131° 32' 51.49''W - 131.54750	Local recreation beach used for tourist group snorkeling, near Mountain Point boat launch, approx. 8 miles south of downtown.
Mountain Point Cultural Food	55° 17' 34.05" N 55.29279	-131° 32' 21.08" W - 131.53917	Local cultural food gathering beach, near Mountain Point boat launch, approx. 8 miles south of downtown.
Herring Cove	55° 19" 34.57" N 55.32627	-131° 31' 22.13" W - 131.52278	Local recreation beach used for tourist groups, northern end of Herring Cove, approx. 10.5 miles south of downtown.

 Table 2. Monitoring Site Selection Rationale

		Potential poi	nt and nonpo	int sources ³ p	resent in coa	astal marine v	waters (as ind	licated by 🗸	
Site ID	Individual septic tanks	Private sewer treatment system outfall(s)	Wildlife Pet feces	Private watercraft	Cruise ships, Ferries	Public sewer treatment system outfall(s)	Sewer line breaks	Public treatment system emergency bypasses	Boats at boat launches & in harbor areas
Knudson Cove	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Beacon Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓					
South Point Higgins	√	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Shull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Sunset	√	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
South Refuge Cove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Thomas Basin	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seaport	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	✓
Rotary Pool & Beach	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	✓		
Mountain Point Surprise Beach & Cultural Food	✓	✓	√	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Herring Cove	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	√		

³ Sources vary in volume and bacterial level.

Table 3. Summary of Enterococci Bacteria Results for 2017 and 2018

2017-2018 Enterococci Bacteria Results Summary													
Monitoring Locations	Total # of Samples	Maximum (MPN/100 mL) ⁴	% of 2017 Samples > 130 STV ⁵ 6	% of 2018 Samples > 130 STV	Maximum Rolling 30-Day Geometric Mean of 2017 Data ⁷	Maximum Rolling 30-Day Geometric Mean of 2018 Data							
Knudson Cove	278	2603 ⁹	22	17	87	54							
Beacon Hill	278	579	11	5	55	21							
South Point Higgins Beach	278	1120	11	28	67	70							
Beach at Shull Road	278	727	0	17	44	37							
Beach at Sunset Drive	278	248	11	5	42	30							
South Refuge Cove State Recreation Site	278	1300	11	0	60	27							
Thomas Basin	278	2755	33	28	106	451							
Seaport Beach	278	250	33	0	83	13							
Rotary Park Pool	2010	1120	44	27	437	30							
Rotary Park Beach	711	10	NA ¹²	0	NA	8							
Mountain Point – Cultural Food	1113	414	NA	18	NA	43							
Mountain Point – Surprise Beach	714	51	NA	0	NA	8							
Herring Cove	1815	457	NA	22	NA	113							

⁴ MPN – Most Probable Number is the measurement unit for enterococi bacteria (ASTM Method D6503).

⁵ STV - Statistical Threshold Value.

⁶ Not more than 10% of samples in a 30-day period may exceed 130 enterococi CFU/100 ml in Alaska Water Quality Standards (WQS) (18 AAC 70.020(b)(14)(B)(i)) for the Water Recreation, Contact Recreation designated use.

⁷ Using the 30-day Geometric Mean for Alaska WQS (18 AAC 70.020(b)(14)(B)(i)) may not exceed 35 enterococi CFU/100 ml for the Water Recreation, Contact Recreation.

⁸ 9 samples were collected in 2017, and 18 samples were in 2018 at Knudson Cove, Beacon Hill, South Point Higgin's Beach, Beach at Shull Road, Beach at Sunset Drive, South Refuge Cove State Recreation Site, Thomas Basin and Seaport Beach.

⁹ Bolded red font results exceed the Alaska Water Quality Standards (18 AAC 70.020(b)(14)(B)(i), either the 30-day geomean OR the 10% criteria provision).

¹⁰ 9 samples were collected in 2017, and 11 samples were in 2018 at Rotary Park Pool.

¹¹ 7 samples were collected in 2018 at Rotary Park Pool, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

¹² NA – beach not sampled in 2017.

¹³ 11 samples were collected in 2018 at Mountain Point – Cultural Food, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

¹⁴ 7 samples were collected in 2018 at Mountain Point – Surprise Beach, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

¹⁵ 18 samples were collected in 2018 at Herring Cove, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

Table 4. Summary of Fecal Coliform Bacteria Results for 2017 and 2018

2017-2018 Fecal Coliform Bacteria Results Summary												
Monitoring Locations	Total # of Samples	Maximum (CFU/100 mL) ¹⁶	% of 2017 Samples >31 WQS ¹⁷	% of 2018 Samples >31 WQS ¹⁷	Geometric Mean of 2017 Data ¹⁸	Geometric Mean of 2018 Data ¹⁸						
Knudson Cove	2719	20020	33	22	20	13						
Beacon Hill	2719	66	11	17	10	12						
South Point Higgins Beach	2719	236	22	39	6	21						
Beach at Shull Road	2719	167	22	28	15	20						
Beach at Sunset Drive	2719	142	33	33	14	20						
South Refuge Cove State Recreation Site	2719	88	11	33	10	17						
Thomas Basin	2719	Confluent Growth (>250)	33	44	13	28						
Seaport Beach	2719	Confluent Growth (>250)	33	17	16	7						
Rotary Park Pool	2021	200	33	36	24	16						
Rotary Park Beach	722	26	NA ²³	0	NA ²³	9						
Mountain Point – Cultural Food	1124	118	NA	45	NA	18						
Mountain Point – Surprise Beach	725	23	NA	0	NA	7						
Herring Cove	1826	318	NA	72	NA	47						

¹⁶ CFU - Colony Forming Unit is the measurement unit for fecal coliform bacteria (APHA Method 9222D).72

¹⁷ Not more than 10% of samples may exceed 31 CFU/100 ml in Alaska Water Quality Standards (WQS) (18 AAC 70 (14)(D) for the designated use of harvesting for consumption of raw mollusks or other raw aquatic life.

 $^{^{18}}$ The most stringent WQS (18 AAC 70.020(b)(14)(D)) is for the designated use of harvesting for consumption of raw mollusks or other raw aquatic life; the geometric mean may not exceed 14 fecal coliform/100 ml. The fecal geometric mean is calculated for the entire recreation season.

¹⁹ 9 samples were collected in 2017, and 18 samples were in 2018 at Knudson Cove, Beacon Hill, South Point Higgins Beach, Beach at Shull Road, Beach at Sunset Drive, South Refuge Cove State Recreation Site, Thomas Basin and Seaport Beach.

²⁰ Bolded red font results exceed the Alaska Water Quality Standards (18 AAC 70.020(b)(14)(D).

²¹ 9 samples were collected in 2017, and 11 samples were in 2018 at Rotary Park Pool.

²² 7 samples were collected in 2018 at Rotary Park Pool, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

²³ NA – beach not sampled in 2017.

²⁴ 11 samples were collected in 2018 at Mountain Point – Cultural Food, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

²⁵ 7 samples were collected in 2018 at Mountain Point – Surprise Beach, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

²⁶ 18 samples were collected in 2018 at Herring Cove, this was a new monitoring location in 2018.

Table 5. 2017 Ketchikan BEACH Monitoring Results

2017 Ketchikan BEACH Monitoring

												Ana	alytica	l Data Re	esults												
	,	Knudson	Cove		Beacon	Hill		S Pt Higg	ins		Shu	II		Sunse	t	S	Refuge	Cove		Thomas B	asin	Seaport			Rotary Pool		
Sample Date	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST	FC	Entero	MST
Jul 18/19	16	5.1		5	1.0		<1	1.0		8	6.2		<1 (<1)	4.1 (5.2)		11	2.0		5	2.0		3 (<1)	3 (3.1)		6	3.0	
Jul 24/25	5	3.0		2	<1		8	4.1		167 (68)	124.6 (81.3)		16	8.5		11 (7)	6.1 (5.2)		9	4.1		7	2.0		68	45.7	
Jul 26/27	9	12.2		6	19.3		16 (2)	7.4 (23.8)		12	27.5		13	10.9		8	12.1		14	>2419.6		3	7.3		99 (137)	980.4 (579.4)	
Jul 31/Aug 1	167	15.6		6	26.6		<1	13.1		6	20.6		41 (8)	34.1 (46.4)		7	26.6		7	3.0		4 (7)	3.1 (26.6)		9	47.4	
Aug 8/9	98	1986.3	Human 1.38E*03	11	579.4	Human 1.60E ⁺⁰²	7 (3)	1119.9 (980.4)	Human DNQ	4	75.9	Human 1.68E ⁺⁰²	142	248.1	Human DNQ	8 (15)	1299.7 (157.8)	Human 1.53E ⁺⁰²	42	86.2	Human 1.38E ⁺⁰² Gull DNQ	21	204.6	Human 1.18E ⁺⁰³	27	980.4	Human DNQ Dog DNQ Gull 1.46E ⁺⁰² Goose ND
Aug 14/15	6 (9)	26.9	1.502	22	16.6	1.002	161	82.3	DNQ	27	50.4	1.002	15	22.5	DNQ	6	21.3	1.552	36	156.5	Guil DNQ	37	21.1	1.100	21	69.7 (313.0)	GOOSE NO
Aug 22/23	>200			58	101.7		37	46.2		33	28.1		51 (29)	33.7 (47.4)		69 (32)	81.6 (57.8)		CONF (250)			CONF (250)	250.0		`	1119.9	
Aug 29/	2	1.0		18	7.2		5	24.3		16	3.0		3 (2)	<1 (8.5)		7	13.0		<1	14.5		41	135.4		9	69.3	
Sep 13/	12	14.5		8	9.7		2	9.5		9	8.4		17	9.5		4	13.5		13	70.3		21 (22)	12 (21.3)		6	26.2	
Maximum Entero Geometric Mean		87			55			67			44			42			60			106			83			437	
Seasonal Fecal Geometric				10												40			42			4.5					
Mean	20			10			6			15			14			10			13			16			24		

18 AAC 70 Alaska Water Quality Standards (amended as of April 6, 2018) - (14) Bacteria, For Marine Water Uses

In a 30-day period, the geometric mean of samples may not exceed 35 enterococci CFU/100 ml, and not more than 10% of the samples may exceed a STV of 130 enterococci CFU/100 ml.

(B) Water Recreation (ii) secondary recreation

In a 30-day period, the geometric mean of samples may not exceed 200 fecal coliform/100 ml, and not more than 10% of the samples may exceed 400 fecal coliform/100 ml.

(D) Harvesting for Consumption of Raw Mollusks or Other Raw Aquatic Life (most per 100 ml for a membrane filtration test.

Tides focus is on either side of low tide, using ebb and flow stages

FC = fecal coliform bacteria

stringent)

() shows duplicate results

CFU - colony forming units

MPN - most probable number

STV - statistical threshold value

CONF - Confluent Growth

Table 6. 2018 Ketchikan BEACH Monitoring Results

18 AAC 70 Alaska Water Quality Standards (amended as of April 6, 2018) - (14) Bacteria, For Marine Water Uses

18 Water Recention (Stocket Internation)
19 a 3 Delay project, the general project of the general project of the general project of the proje

lides focus is on either side of low tide, using ebb and flow stay

Entero = enterococci

()s hows duplicate results

CFU - colony forming units

MPN - most probable number

CDNF - Confluent Growt